said period is incorporated in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, which is widely circulated to various establishments, including the Parliament Library. The information is also posted on SIA Website (http://www.nic.in/indmin).

Report of Transparency International

2099. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a global anti-corruption organization Transparency International has said in its recent report that several multinationals including those from the U.S. and other G-7 countries were indulging in bribery and corruption in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken note of the said report and taken steps to curb malpractices by multinationals in India; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Transparency International, an International Non-governmental Organization, has recently released a Bribe Payers Index (BPI), 2002. According to the Report, companies from Russia, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Italy, Hongkong, Malaysia, United States, Japan, France and Spain have a high propensity to bribe overseas, especially in developing countries. The BPI survey was conducted in 15 emergent market countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Thailand and India. The survey also indicates that domestically owned companies in the 15 countries surveyed have a higher propensity to pay bribes than foreign firms. The survey does not contain any specific reference to multinationals indulging in bribery and corruption in India.

(b) and (c) The survey report does not cover any specific malpractices by multinationals in India for the Government to take steps to curb the same. However, the Government has undertaken progressive liberalisation of all economic policies, including FDI policy and Industrial policy, with a view to adding maximum transparency and minimising elements of discretion at the decision making levels. As regards FDI policy, the Government has already opened up most sectors to FDI up to 100% on the automatic route. Wherever prior approval of the Government is required,

there is a time bound system of disposal where decisions on the applications are communicated within six weeks'time. The enforcement agencies take appropriate action against any company, including MNCs, indulging in corrupt practices.

International leather complex at Nellore

2100. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed in principle to set up International leather complex at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the progress made in the project;

(c) the details of amount allotted for construction of this complex; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete this complex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH):(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Export processing zones in Karnataka

2101. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to establish Export Processing Zones in Karnataka for horticultural crops and processed agricultural products;

(b) if so, whether State Government of Karnataka has recommended for establishing these Export Processing Zones at Bijapur, Chitradurga and Kolar; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) to (c) Three Agri Export